

For more information:

If you have any questions or need more information, Contact DHEC's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Charleston

1362 McMillan Avenue
Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405
Phone: (843) 744-5838

Myrtle Beach

1705 North Oak Street
Suite 6
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577
Phone: (843) 626-7217

Beaufort

703 Blanden Street
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901
Phone: (843) 524-6885

www.scdhec.net/eqc/ocrm



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South Carolina

Public Beach

Access Guide

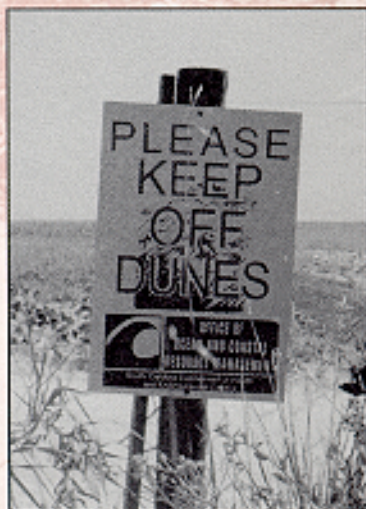
**South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control**
**Office of Ocean and Coastal
Resource Management**

South Carolina is fortunate to have some of the most beautiful beaches along the eastern coast of the United States. Over 181 miles of wide, sandy beaches welcome both tourists and residents to the South Carolina shore. Whether you plan to spend the day or a lifetime along the coast, this booklet will inform you on the things you need to know to not only enjoy the coastline today, but also to make sure that the beauty of the coast remains intact for many generations to come.

Respect the Sand Dunes and Use Dune Walkovers

Beaches and sand dunes protect the highland by absorbing the tremendous force of waves and tidal currents. The dunes serve as reservoirs of sand. They help to replenish the beaches by replacing sand, which is washed away by waves, tidal currents and periodic storms. In other words, sand dunes are our first line of defense for our shoreline.

Pedestrian traffic can do more harm to a dune than most people realize. A dune walkover, which is a bridge over the dune, saves a lot of unnecessary wear and tear on the protective dunes. Disturbing the dunes in South Carolina can be punished by a \$1,000 fine, plus the cost of re-establishing the dune.



Don't Pick the Sea Oats

Sea oats are beautiful, but they also have a very important feature along the South Carolina Coast. Sea oats and other natural vegetation help keep the sand dunes in place. The foliage helps increase the size of the dune by trapping wind blown sand. Plant roots also contribute as they bind sand particles to the dune.

Make Sure That the Coast is Clear

Nothing spoils the beauty of South Carolina's Beaches faster than litter. Not only is it unsightly, but litter can be deadly for the fish, birds and other animals that call our coast home. Through programs such as the DHEC Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management's (OCRM) Adopt a Beach Program and the annual River and Beach Sweep, more and more people are taking an active part in making sure that the state's beaches are clean. When you clean up, remember to recycle.

Keep a Watch Along the Coast

DHEC's OCRM is a regulatory agency concerned with the potential impacts development can have on our beaches, wetlands and waterways. Our enforcement staff keeps an eye along the coast for possible violations to the beachfront management laws. If you see what you suspect is a violation of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, become a creek and beach watcher by calling OCRM at 1-800-768-1516. Callers are not required to give their names.

Lights Out for Sea Turtles

Tourists and residents are not the only ones who like the beach. South Carolina's beaches play host to a large gathering of loggerhead sea turtles every year. The females emerge from the ocean to lay their eggs in the sand. Later, tiny hatchlings dig out the sand and scramble toward the ocean. Since all of this takes place at night, the turtles rely on the lights of the moon, stars and the sea's phosphorescence to make their way into the ocean water. The artificial light of houses, cars, streetlights, and other sources can confuse the baby sea turtles and lead them away from the safe haven of the sea. You can help by turning off beachfront lights during turtle nesting season (May 1 through October 31).



Keeping the Ocean Safe

Several beach communities along the South Carolina coast take part in a voluntary surf water quality-monitoring program with advisories issued for swimmers when necessary. DHEC oversees the monitoring program.

Reason with Hurricane Season

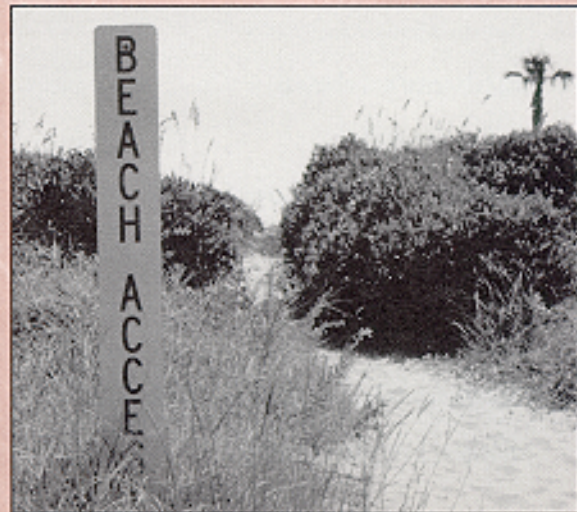
The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 until November 1. Everyone who lives along the coast or who visits the coast during hurricane season needs to be prepared in the event a storm comes our way. Always keep emergency supplies on hand, such as extra food, water, battery-operated radios and flashlights and a first aid kit. If an evacuation order is issued, follow the suggested evacuation routes.

Spot on the Beach

Each city has its own laws concerning walking dogs on the beach. Please consult the city hall of the particular beach you want to visit for the rules concerning dogs on the sand.

Fireworks

All South Carolina communities prohibit the shooting of fireworks on the beach.



Beach Access Sites in South Carolina

BEACHES	FEES	PARKING	RESTROOMS	ACCESS SITES
North Myrtle Beach				
Cherry Grove	No	Yes	No	One site per block
Ocean Drive	No	Yes	No	One site per block
Crescent	No	Yes	No	One site per block
Windy Hill	No	Yes	No	14 sites
Atlantic Beach	No	Yes	No	3 sites
Myrtle Beach	No	Yes	No	150 sites
Myrtle Beach State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total Access
Surfside Beach	No	Yes	No	33 sites
Garden City	No	Yes	No	44 sites
Huntington State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total Access
North Litchfield Beach	No	Yes	No	17 sites
Litchfield Beach	No	Yes	No	7 sites
Pawley's Island (Southern Tip to Upper Central Only)	No	Yes	No	9 sites
Isle of Palms (Excluding Eastern End of Island)	No	Yes	Yes	44 sites
Sullivan's Island	No	Yes	No	26 sites
Folly Beach	No	Yes	No	28 sites
Kiawah Island County Park (Seasonal)	No	No	No	1 site
Edisto State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total Access
Edisto Island	No	Yes	No	One site every 400'
Hunting Island State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Total Access
Hilton Head Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 sites